Abstract

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is issuing a single Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) document pursuant to Pub. L. 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, Section 1319(b). As a result, the 30-day waiting period between the FEIS and ROD, prescribed in 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §771.127(a), will not occur.

This Tier 1 FEIS documents the effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements along the U.S. Highway 50 (US 50) Corridor. This document addresses a 150-mile-long portion of US 50 through the Lower Arkansas Valley in southeastern Colorado, between Pueblo, Colorado, and the vicinity of the Colorado-Kansas state line. The FHWA, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and local governments have identified the need to improve safety and mobility on this highway.

The US 50 Tier 1 FEIS analyzes the project on a broad scale. The document has been prepared under the guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The purpose of this document is to identify a general corridor location for improvements to US 50, off and/or on the existing alignment, from Interstate 25 (I-25) in Pueblo to approximately one mile east of Holly, near the Colorado-Kansas state line. The Build Alternatives presented in this document are the results of this effort. They represent a 1,000-foot-wide corridor generally centered on the existing US 50 alignment, as found between the communities located east of Pueblo. At the communities, the Build Alternatives also include realignments around the towns. These Build Alternatives were further screened to identify a preferred alternative, which identifies one of the choices around each community as the Preferred Alternative, except in Fowler and Swink. At these locations, two Build Alternatives are carried forward for Tier 2 analysis.

After completion of this Tier 1 process, Tier 2 NEPA studies would identify highway alignment alternatives within the 1,000-foot-wide corridor, which would consist of a maximum 250-foot-wide highway footprint (i.e., alignment) to accommodate a four-lane expressway. Tier 2 studies also would include additional socio-economic and environmental analysis, public involvement, and design.

Impacts of the No-Build Alternative and Build Alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, on the rural and agricultural environment, natural environment, community and built environment, and other resources are identified in a broad range of categories. Mitigation strategies are identified to address impacts to these resources.



This Tier 1 FEIS/ROD is online at http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us50e and is available for review

at the following locations:

Pueblo City-County Library District Tom L. and Anna Marie Giodone Library 24655 US 50 BUS Pueblo, CO 81006 (719) 562-5600

Pueblo City-County Library District Rawlings Library 100 E. Abriendo Avenue Pueblo, CO 81004 (719) 562-5600

Fowler Public Library 400 6th Street Fowler, CO 81039 (719) 263-4472

Manzanola Public Library

301 Catalpa Street Manzanola, CO 81058 (719) 462-5528

Rocky Ford City Library 400 S. 10th Street Rocky Ford, CO 81067 (719) 254-6641

Swink Town Hall

301 Columbia Avenue Swink, CO 81077 (719) 384-7155

Woodruff Memorial Library 522 Colorado Avenue La Junta, CO 81050 (719) 384-4612

Las Animas/Bent County Library 306 5th Street Las Animas, CO 81054 (719) 456-0111

Lamar City Library

102 E. Parmenter Street Lamar, CO 81052 (719) 336-4632 **Granada Town Hall** 105 S. Main Street Granada, CO 81041 (719) 734-5411

Holly Town Hall 100 Tony Garcia Drive Holly, CO 81047 (719) 537-6622

Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2 Pueblo Offices 905 N. Erie Avenue Pueblo, CO 81001 (719) 562-5568

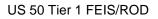
Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2 Colorado Springs Offices 1480 Quail Lake Road Colorado Springs, CO 80906

(719) 634-2323

Colorado Department of Transportation Headquarters, Shumate Building 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue Denver, CO 80222 (303) 757-9011

Federal Highway Administration

12300 W. Dakota Ave, Ste. 180 Lakewood, CO 80228 (720) 963-3000



En Español

Para más información en Español, acerca del documento de la carretera US 50 Este, por favor llame al (303) 209-2324.

Contacts

For additional information regarding the US 50 Corridor East Tier 1 FEIS/ROD, please contact:

Melinda Urban Federal Highway Administration 12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180 Lakewood, CO 80228 (720) 963-3073 Melinda.Urban@dot.gov Dan Dahlke, PE Colorado Department of Transportation 902 Erie Avenue Pueblo, CO 81001 (719) 546-5702 Daniel.Dahlke@state.co.us



This page left intentionally blank.